

## RECORDS OF SOME COLEOPTERA FROM THE SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS, CALIFORNIA

BY E. G. LINSLEY AND E. S. ROSS

*University of California*

During the latter part of May and June of 1939, the Division of Entomology of the University of California held a summer field course in the San Jacinto Mountains of southern California. A large number of interesting insects were collected in this area and since many of them were new, they will be described elsewhere. Among the rare or interesting previously described Coleoptera, the following seem worthy of special record:

**Cupesidæ.** A number of specimens of the rare *Cupes lobiceps* LeConte, the habits of which are apparently unknown, were taken at Piñon Flats in the early evening of May 22 by sweeping miscellaneous low herbage in an open, arid flat.

**Melasidæ.** More than twenty examples of the striking beetle *Palæoxenus dohrni* (Horn), previously known from but a few, scattered localities, were taken in the vicinity of Idyllwild, mostly under bark of old stumps of *Libocedrus decurrens*. At least one additional specimen was seen flying at dusk.

**Buprestidæ.** *Acmæodera latiflava* Fall is generally treated as a variety of *A. hepburni* LeConte. However, in a series of more than 500 examples taken at Piñon Flats there was no indication of intergradation with the LeConte species. The majority of the specimens were taken under very arid conditions at flowers of *Sphæralcea ambigua*. When the latter ceased to bloom, they were found on *Eriogonum*, *Encelia*, *Yucca*, and *Eriodictyon*. In view of the constancy of *latiflava* and the widely different conditions under which it is found (as compared to *hepburni*) it seems probable that it should be considered as a distinct species. *Pæcilonota bridwelli* Van Dyke, a rare species originally described from Imperial County, California, was taken on flowers in a canyon near Palm Springs. Another buprestid, *Chrysobothris quadrilineata* LeConte, previously known from New Mexico and Arizona, was found on *Juniperus californicus* at Piñon Flats.

**Coccinellidæ.** A series of the rare, black, *Coccinella prolongata bridwelli* (Nunenmacher) was taken at the type locality (Tahquitz Meadow) in colonies of *Aphis lupini* Gillette and Palmer on a small perennial lupine. Although the host plant of the aphid was very abundant, colonies of the insect were very scarce and were mostly found at or below the ground level. The beetle was found with but a small percentage of the colonies. According to E. O. Essig, who very kindly made the determination, the aphid has not been previously recorded from California. Another rare ladybird, *Hippodamia lunato-maculata lengi* Johnson, was taken in numbers on *Sphæralcea ambigua* at Piñon Flats.

**Scarabæidæ.** The rather uncommon *Valgus californicus* Horn was found in several localities in the Transition Zone in association with *Zoötermopsis* spp. under bark of *Pinus ponderosa* stumps.

**Cerambycidæ.** At Palm Springs, *Stenodontes* (*Nothopleurus*) *lobigenis* (Bates) was noticed causing rather severe injury to pepper trees along the streets. The larvæ mined in the heartwood and over a period of years have succeeded in hollowing out a large proportion of the trees. The weakened trees suffer severely from wind damage. Most of the boring is in the basal six feet of the trunk, and adults were found resting in the openings of their emergence holes in June. The flower-loving longicorn, *Anoplodera* (*Judolia*) *instabilis* (Haldeman), was abundant in the higher valleys on lupine, but the individuals represented a black phase similar to that found in the southern Rocky Mountains. Practically all of the males and the majority of the females taken were wholly black, the remainder being much darker than those found in the Sierra Nevadas and farther northward. A related but much rarer species, *Anoplodera* (*Judolia*) *scapularis* Van Dyke was found in large numbers on flowers of *Sphæralcea ambigua* at Piñon Flats. Another rare species, *Molorchus eburneus* Linsley, previously known by single specimens from Yosemite and Lake Tahoe, was found on *Abies concolor* on the Tahquitz Peak Trail.